

EPA REGION 3 ENVIRO-BYTES

**A Wrap-Up of Issues & Events in EPA's Mid-Atlantic Region
February 7, 2001**

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RESTON, VA STREAM SPARED WITH QUICK OIL SPILL RESPONSE

EPA emergency responders were dispatched to an oil spill at a USGS facility in Reston, Va. on January 29 to address a 15,700-gallon fuel oil spill. The fuel was being transferred to a storage tank that was thought to be empty, but was actually full. A nearby drainage way that feeds to Sugarland Run and eventually the Potomac River was immediately boomed off, preventing the fuel oil from escaping into the tributary. The following day, USGS contractors had recovered about 5,000 gallons of the fuel. The EPA issued a Clean Water Act order to the USGS to complete the cleanup. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will oversee the work.

PESTICIDE IMPORT HELD UP, HEARING PENDING

Dragon Corp. of Roanoke, Va. was issued a Notice of Detention and Hearing on January 26, regarding its Dragon One Percent Rotenone Dust. The notice detains the pesticide with U.S. Customs and allows the company a hearing on the refused entry. The notice was issued because the pesticide had no labeling,

which would detail contents, emergency instructions and warning statements. The company also failed to submit notification of the shipment prior to arrival.

VANGUARD BECOMES ENERGY STAR COMPANY

On January 30, Vanguard joined more than 490 other Pennsylvania partners and more than 3,000 region wide as a voluntary participant in the Energy Star Buildings Program. The company committed its nearly two million square feet of campus space to energy efficient upgrades. These upgrades will result in the reduction of 20,000,000 pounds of carbon dioxide, 85 tons of sulfur dioxide, and 37 tons of nitrogen oxides. The resulting energy savings equates to planting 3,900 acres of trees and removing 2,000 cars from the roads.

FRESHWATER FLOW INTO CHESAPEAKE LOW IN 2000

The annual mean freshwater flow to the Chesapeake Bay during 2000 was 16 percent below the long-term average. An unusually dry autumn resulted in lower yearly average stream flow into the Bay. River flow, also called freshwater flow, depends on ground water and precipitation. Freshwater flows affect Bay water quality because they influence circulation, salinity, nutrient loads, and dissolved oxygen levels, and indirectly affect finfish and shellfish populations. Low-flow conditions can result in higher salinity levels in the Bay. The higher salinity waters may cause oysters to suffer. In years with low flow, average sediment and nutrient loads to the Bay and tidal tributaries may be decreased. This is considered beneficial since increased amounts of sediments and nutrients can lead to poor water quality conditions for many of the Bay's living resources.

WETLANDS MITIGATION BANK PROPOSED FOR SUSSEX COUNTY, DE

On January 30, EPA met with several business partners who are proposing to build a private wetland mitigation bank in Sussex County, Del.-- the first mitigation bank in Delaware. The proposed project location is a 150-acre agricultural field that is currently being used as a borrow pit. It is adjacent to the Delaware Solid Waste Management Authority's Sussex County landfill. The banking proposal would create a combination of forested and emergent wetlands to offset impacts from development projects in Sussex County. EPA would need to review technical feasibility of the project, including data on hydrology, soils, and vegetation, plus arrangements

for long-term stewardship of the site.

WEST POINT, PA COATINGS COMPANY CITED FOR WASTE

On February 2, the EPA announced that Berwind Pharmaceutical Services Inc. will pay a \$14,943 penalty for allegedly violating federal hazardous waste laws at its Colorcon facility located in West Point, Pennsylvania. The alleged violations were discovered during an EPA inspection of the Montgomery County facility. Berwind develops coating systems for the pharmaceutical and food industries and manufacturers inks and coatings for medications.

ALLEGED ASBESTOS VIOLATORS FINED

An administrative law judge has ruled that Ohio Valley Insulating Company violated federal asbestos regulations during a 1996 renovation at the Century Aluminum mill in Ravenswood, W.Va. Administrative Law Judge Carl C. Charneski found the asbestos removal contractor liable for a \$20,000 penalty under the Clean Air Act. Also, Eagle Industrial Hygiene Association Inc. of Horsham, Pa. has agreed to pay a \$9,000 penalty to settle alleged violations of federal asbestos regulations during a renovation at the G.C. Murphy Department Store in Manao, Pa.

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